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President Kim Il Sung Attacks Washington & Seoul over KAL Incident

President Kim Il Sung on Feb. 24 accused Washington and Seoul of creating "incidents" whenever the DPRK takes new measures to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

He said that whenever the DPRK takes new measures to ease tensions in Korea and settle the national reunification question peacefully, the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean regime commit despicable acts of creating incidents aimed at provoking the Republic, deliberately creating tensions between north and south and threatening the DPRK militarily.

His remark, which came at a banquet held to welcome President Kenneth David Kaunda of Zambia, was the first comment the DPRK President has made in reference to the KAL incident.

In his speech, the DPRK President criticized the unchanged U.S. policy on the Korean Peninsula.

"...the United States is viciously scheming to perpetuate Korea's division by creating 'two Koreas' and to reduce south Korea to its permanent colony, military base and forward nuclear base," he said.

He also criticized the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises as "a nuclear war game against our Republic."

Events have shown that the United States and the south Korean regime are capable of creating a situation which

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President Kim Il Sung on Feb. 24 warmly greeted President Kenneth David Kaunda on an official goodwill visit to the DPRK at the head of a Zambian party and state delegation. (KCNA radiophoto)

WPK Central Com. Decides to Launch 200-Day Campaign

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea has decided to launch a 200-day campaign "to effect a revolutionary upsurge on all fronts of the socialist construction and celebrate the 40th anniversary of the DPRK founding (Sep. 9) as a grand festival of victors."

A letter to the entire party members adopted at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK on Feb. 20 urged them to take the lead in the campaign.

Noting that the main front in the 200-day campaign is the capital construction, the letter said that efforts should be concentrated on building major objects including the construction of power stations, coal mines, metal industrial centres, big chemical industrial centres and light metal production centre.

The Feb. 20 meeting was presided over by President Kim Il Sung and attended by the members of the Presidium of the Political Bureau, members and alternate members of the Political Bureau and other senior party officials.

It also deliberated calls of the WPK Central Committee on the 40th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK.

DPRK Celebrates 70th Birthday of Soviet Army & Navy

A government military delegation of the DPRK headed by Minister of People's Armed Forces O Jin U recently attended celebrations of the 70th founding anniversary of the Soviet Army and Naval Fleet in Moscow.

Meanwhile, a rally marking the 70th birthday of the Soviet Army and Naval Fleet was held in Pyongyang on Feb. 22.

Roh's "Presidency"— Continuation of Mil. Rule: Rodong Sinmun

Rodong Sinmun, organ of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, on Feb. 25 branded the "inauguration" of Roh Tae Woo as south Korean "president" as a drama of entrusting "a new gangster to continue the fascist dictatorship".

In a signed commentary the paper said:

The Roh Tae Woo puppet regime appearing in south Korea is merely a continuation of the illegitimate Chun Doo Hwan dictatorial regime which emerged in a sea of blood shed by the south Korean people and on the heaps of corpses of fellow countrymen – It is a worse one.

The traitor Roh and his "DJP" clan are advertising as if "the military government" were terminated and a curtain was raised for the "democratic development" by the "transfer of power". They are as foolish as a wolf trying to change his spots and "a black cock trying to change itself into white."

If a road to democratic development is to open in south Korea, a genuine democratic government supported by the people should be established after the Chun Doo Hwan dictatorial regime, the barbaric military fascist system, has been liquidated.

The present south Korean system whose foundation is the Roh Tae Woo regime is a colonial system of the

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Large-Scale Protests Greet Roh's "Inauguration Day"

Roh Tae Woo's first day as south Korean "president", Feb. 25, was marred as more than 4,000 students and dissidents throughout south Korea took to the streets, protesting his "inauguration".

Some 2,000 protesters battled police in the centre of Seoul, shouting, "Down with Roh Tae Woo the murderer", for the second day in a row.

Riot police fired volleys of choking tear gas to drive protesters back in the fighting around Seoul's Myongdong Cathedral where opposition groups including the National Coalition for Democracy (NCD) held a protest rally against Roh's "presidency" from Feb. 24 to 25. Similar rallies were held in 15 universities nationwide and a total of some 4,100 attended them.

Clashes were also reported in the southern cities of Masan, Sunchon, Pusan and Kwangju.

According to the English-language Daily Yomiuri published in Japan, a south Korean cameraman working for a foreign television station was injured when a tear-gas canister fired from a rifle

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About 1,600 students stage a protest rally near Myongdong Cathedral in Seoul on Feb. 25 against Roh Tae Woo's inauguration as "presidency." (Reuter)

U.S. & S. Korea Invent Incidents Whenever We Take New Measures to Ease Tension

Speech of President Kim Il Sung

President Kim Il Sung of the DPRK made a speech at a banquet he gave on Feb. 24 at the Kumsusan Assembly Hall in honor of President Kenneth David Kaunda of the Republic of Zambia on an official goodwill visit to Korea.
Noting that the Zambian President had come a long way on a third visit to Korea, he said:

From this we feel again warm fraternity you are entertaining towards us.

The present situation demands that the world's progressive people who are heading for Chajusong should unite and take a more powerful joint action against imperialism.

Because of the manoeuvres of the imperialists and racists for aggression and war, peace is now being disturbed and the danger of war is growing in many parts of the world, particularly on the Korean Peninsula and in southern Africa.

And the ever-widening gulf between the rich and the poor, between the North and the South, is rendering the world situation more unstable.

Both Korea and Zambia, as the member states of the non-aligned movement and developing countries, are cooperating in their struggle against war and for peace and for the construction of a new world which is free from domination and subjugation.

In spite of the very difficult circumstances where they are in direct confrontation with the South African racists, the Zambian people under the correct leadership of Your Excellency esteemed Dr. President are striving to implement the line of building a "humanitarian society through socialism" under the slogan of self-reliance.

Having assumed the heavy responsibility of the chairman of the Organization of African Unity and the chairman of frontline states in particular, Your Excellency Dr. President is endeavouring to do away with the rule of colonialism and racism still remaining on the African Continent, develop South-South cooperation, establish a new fair international economic order and revitalize the African economy. Thus you are making a big contribution to building an independent prosperous new Africa.

We think highly of this and express our firm solidarity with the Zambian people in their just struggle to repulse the racists' insolent aggression and subversive activities and sabotage and build a new independent society.

Pursuing the policy of cursed racial discrimination and apartheid, the South African racists are brutally repressing the peoples of South Africa and Namibia and perpetrating acts of aggression against Angola, Mozambique and other neighbouring frontline states. This is because they are under the active patronage of the United States and other Western imperialist forces.

We resolutely denounce the criminal acts of the South African racist regime and its patrons and maintain that overall and decisive international sanctions must be taken against the South African racist clique.

The Korean people stand as firm as ever by the fighting people and will in the future, too, give active support and encouragement to all the African people in their struggle for the complete liberation and peace of southern Africa.

Today the situation on the Korean Peninsula is becoming more and more critical, and this is the cause of deep apprehension among the people throughout the world.

Our party and the government of our Republic which had been making consistent sincere efforts for the peaceful settlement of the Korean question proposed on the New Year's day this year to hold a north-south joint conference and to improve the relations between the DPRK and the United States, out of an earnest desire to turn the situation on the Korean Peninsula in favour of peace and peaceful reunification of the country and provide a new opportunity of promoting national reconciliation and unity between the north and the south.

However, the United States is viciously scheming to freeze Korea's division by creating "two Koreas" and to reduce south Korea to its permanent colony, military base, and forward nuclear base.

Whenever we take new measures to ease the tension in our country and settle the national reunification question peacefully, the U.S. imperialists and the south Korean authorities commit despicable acts of inventing incidents aimed to provoke our Republic, deliberately creating tensions between the north and the south and threatening us militarily.

This year again, the United States has decided to stage the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercise, a nuclear war game against our Republic, and is openly clamouring that they will concentrate massive armed forces in south Korea and on the neighbouring sea on the plea of providing "security for the Olympic Games in Seoul."

The situation shows that the United States and the south Korean authorities might possibly rig up a pretext and provoke war at any moment in an attempt to save the military dictatorship in south Korea from its crisis.

We will never tolerate the U.S. imperialists and their stooges to provoke and threaten our Republic recklessly. If they unleash another war, our people will resolutely rise to the occasion and fight them.

Of course, we do not want such a development and will make every effort to prevent the outbreak of war in Korea, a war which might involve the world in a nuclear holocaust.

As the historical lessons and contemporary events show, tensions cannot be eased nor peace maintained by the good faith and effort of one side.

The United States and the south Korean authorities must understand clearly that they can get nothing from the reckless clamour against our Republic. If they really want peace, they must desist from their frantic acts of arms build-up and war provocation and come to dialogue without delay in response to our proposal.

The peace-loving people throughout the world including the Zambian people are rendering active support to the just policy of our party and the government of our Republic for easing tension, maintaining peace on the Korean Peninsula and realizing the independent and peaceful reunification of the country through dialogue and negotiation.

Your Excellency Dr. President, your re-visit is a great encouragement to our people in their strenuous struggle against the imperialist aggressive forces. It is a powerful demonstration of the durable friendship and solidarity among the Third World people in their common struggle against imperialism and for independence.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to you for your positive support for our people in their just cause of socialist construction and the reunification of the country.

On this occasion we will fully discuss various matters of common concern. There is no doubt that the discussion will produce excellent results.

Need to Establish Man-Centered Society through Philosophy of Humanism Like Juche Idea

Speech of President Kenneth David Kaunda

Follow excerpts from the speech of President Kenneth David Kaunda made at the Feb. 24 banquet given by President Kim Il Sung:

It is my hope that our visit to this great country will afford us yet another opportunity to learn more about your country.

Since our arrival, we have noted the significant progress your country has made in all areas of human endeavour. The achievements are indicative of the great efforts and determination of your nation to overcome obstacles to economic development and social progress. We congratulate you most heartily on your achievements and wish you greater success in the future.

We have undertaken this visit to your great country to enhance understanding, friendship and cooperation between our two countries for the mutual benefit of our two peoples. The leadership in our two countries hold identical views on many issues. We are closely linked together through our similar experience of colonialism and the rule of imperialism.

We are also faced with the common task of safeguarding our national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. Above all, we desire peace, justice and freedom to enable us to dedicate maximum efforts to attain meaningful development and improve the living standards of our people.

We in Zambia are striving to establish a man-centred society through our philosophy of humanism, which places the importance of man above everything else. This philosophy, like the Juche idea, aims at bringing about a society in which all activity should be aimed at satisfying man's needs, including the protection of his environment. We must resolve to strengthen ourselves in order to achieve our noble objectives. Indeed, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Zambia enjoy bilateral relations which emanate from a common strategy in our struggles against these forces of exploitation.

We have followed with great admiration your efforts to unify the Korean people through peaceful means. I am aware that external pressures continue to obstruct your well intentioned attempts to bring about peaceful reunification of Korea. We are, however, confident that the people of Korea will ultimately find a solution acceptable to all concerned. The efforts being made by you, Comrade President, towards peaceful reunification of Korea are highly commendable.

I wish to reiterate here our conviction that the reunification of Korea is a subject matter best left to the Korean people themselves, and calls for no foreign interference.

Racist South Africa, with the support of the United States, equips, controls and directs the MNR and UNITA bandits to disrupt peace, destroy infrastructure and maim and kill innocent men, women and children in the region. The overall objective is to weaken these independent states and prolong their economic dependence on South Africa. At the same time, such acts of aggression are intended to force the frontline states to abandon their support for the just struggle of the oppressed people against the evil system of apartheid in South Africa and for the independence of Namibia.

I wish to salute the Democratic People's Republic of Korea which has unreservedly identified itself with the forces of progress and justice by playing an active role in the anti-colonial, anti-racist and anti-imperialist struggle. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's firm support for the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and the liberation struggle in Namibia is an inspiration not only to the frontline states but also to peace-loving people throughout the world. We are grateful that you continue to play a leading role in calling for the economic isolation of South Africa in order to force the minority racist regime in Pretoria to abandon the inhuman system of apartheid.

It is imperative that the myriad of economic problems now facing Africa are also given serious attention. Zambia is concerned at the ever widening gap between the rich North and the poor South. Unless the industrialised countries engage in meaningful dialogue with the developing countries with a view to bringing about the restructuring of the present international economic order, the latter's participation in trade with the North would be seriously undermined.

Zambia is equally disturbed by the increase in the number and intensity of regional conflicts, which have also become hotbeds of international tension.

Continued instability in the Middle East, South East Asia, Central America and many other areas is frustrating the efforts of the countries of these regions to develop their economies and provide their people with basic requirements. The suffering of the people in all these regions could be minimised and halted altogether if smaller nations were left on their own to determine their own destiny, free of any foreign interference.

We fully support the efforts of the United Nations in trying to bring the Iran-Iraq conflict to an end. The continuation of that war is not only senseless but also threatens peace and security in the world as a whole. Zambia warmly welcomes the agreement reached recently between the United States of America and the Soviet Union on intermediate- and short-range nuclear missiles. We look forward to further agreements in strategic, chemical and other weapons systems, so that man can look forward to a new era of relatively enhanced peace and security.

It is my hope, and indeed that of the Zambian people that this visit has served to strengthen further the bonds of friendship that exist between our two nations.

Secretary Kim Jong Il's 46th Birthday Celebrated

Various functions took place in Pyongyang and many countries including Poland, Peru, Portugal and Japan on the occasion of the 46th birthday of Secretary Kim Jong Il (Feb. 16, 1942).

In Lisbon, Portugal, a national seminar on the work of the Secretary "On Some Problems of Education in the Juche Idea" was held on Feb. 6, with the presence of former President of Portugal Francisco da Costa Gomes.

Meanwhile, the Secretary received messages of greetings from foreign party and state leaders.

Follow messages of greetings sent to him and major celebrations held on the occasion of his birthday:

Messages of Greetings from Foreign Party & State Leaders

Secretary Kim Jong Il received messages of greetings from foreign party and state leaders on the occasion of his birthday.

They came from **Mohamed Abdelaziz**, President of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and Secretary General of the Polisario Front;

Didier Ratsiraka, General Secretary of the Malagasy Vanguard of Revolution and President of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar;

Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt;

Mathieu Kerekou, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Party of the People's Revolution of Benin, President, Head of State, Chairman of the National Executive Council of the People's Republic of Benin;

Norodom Sihanouk, President of Democratic Kampuchea;

Bhichai Rattakul, leader of the Democratic Party of Thailand; and

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the United States of America.

The messages extended warmest congratulations to the Secretary on his birthday and wished the Workers' Party of Korea and the Korean people greater progress and prosperity.

A message of greetings came to him from Guy Dupre, secretary general of the International Liaison Committee for the Reunification and Peace of Korea.

Functions Abroad

●A national seminar on the work of Secretary Kim Jong Il "On Some Problems of Education in the Juche Idea" was held in Lisbon, Portugal on Feb. 6;

●A meeting was held at the Warsaw Youth Cadres Training School of Poland;

●Lectures were given at the Epe Government Teachers College of Nigeria, Loumbia of Burkina Faso and the Burkina National Group of the Juche Idea, the Group for the Study of the Juche Idea of Comrade Kim Il Sung in the Ruimveldt Middle School of Guyana and the organizations of Guyanese and Sierra Leonean students studying in Cuba,

●A meeting and a book and photo exhibition on the DPRK were held in Lima, Peru.

●A meeting was held by the Nepal-Korea Friendship Association;

●A meeting was held at the Lahore branch of the Pakistan-Korea Friendship Association;

●The Korean documentary film "The Dear Leader Comrade Kim Jong Il Gives On-the-Spot Guidance to the Pyongyang City Constructors" was screened in Madagascar;

●A meeting was held in Ambohidrativo County, Antananarivo Province, Madagascar;

●A meeting, a Korean film show and a Korean photo exhibition were held at the Maize Processing Factory in Mukamira of Ruhengeri Province, Rwanda,

●Film shows were held in Bucharest, Romania, and at the Benin-Korea Friendship Hospital;

●A lecture was given and a film show was held in the Ministry of Interior of Mozambique;

●Photo exhibitions and film shows were held in Bubanza Province of Burundi, an artillery regiment of Uganda, Khartoum of the Sudan and unit No. 1302 of the People's Forces for the Liberation of Mozambique;

●A lecture was given at the Kim Il Sung Library in Somalia;

●A lecture and a film show were given and held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso;

●A photo exhibition and a film show were held at the Libyan University of General Services;

●A book and photo exhibition and a film show were held at the Normal College of Uganda;

●A photo exhibition and a film show were held at the Medical College in Kitega Province of Burundi;

●A commemorative lecture, photo exhibition and film show were given and held at the district No. 6 Ouagadougou, Burkina-Faso, and at the Training Center of Technical Personnel of Ouagadougou;

●Korean film weeks, lectures, photo exhibitions and other functions were held at Siad Military Academy of Somalia; Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania; the Ouagadougou Senior Middle School, Burkina Faso; the Normal College of Sousse, Tunisia; Omdourman City Office of the Sudan; Vioco of Norte Province, Equatorial Guinea; Ouidah House of Culture of Benin and other places.

February Music Festival Held Here

The "February Evening of Music" was held on Feb. 23 at the Shinjuku Cultural Center in Tokyo, in celebration of the 46th birthday of Secretary Kim Jong Il.

The February Evening of Music has been organized every year since 1984 under the sponsorship of the executive committee of the February Evening of Music.

About 1,800 Japanese, Koreans and resident foreigners in Tokyo enjoyed the programs.

Among the audience were Kajitani Yoshihisa, chairman of the board of directors of the Association of the Japan-Korea Cultural Exchange; Kawamura Jinya, representative of the committee of Japan-Korea Social Scientists Solidarity; Mitsui Tametomo, professor of Soka University; Asakawa Haruo, musical composer; Kawata Yasuyo, critic; and Takayama Kanji, ex-vice chairman of Sohyo (the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan).

Chinese and Hungarian artists performed together with Korean and Japanese artists.

Prior to the opening of the evening of musical, Kajitani Yoshihisa said; Campaigns for the reunification of the north and south of Korea have been impaired by the KAL jetliner incident. Therefore, we would like to smash misleading information and seek the truth of the incident for the sake of Japan-Korea friendship.

Japanese actor Mr. Tadara Jun stressed the significance of the evening of music held in celebration of Secretary Kim Jong Il and made explanations on the program.

Together with Korean music and dance performed by resident Korean artists, Western classical music was also performed.

First Vice Chairman Li Jin Gyu of the Central Standing Committee of Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) was present together with other vice chairmen of Chongryun.

Earlier on Feb. 20 the "Japan-Korea Friendship–February Music Festival" was held in Osaka under the sponsorship of the Japan-Korea Music and Art Exchange Committee.

About 800 people enjoyed the performance.

Vice Chairman Li Mal Sang of the CSC of Chongryun and Ogasawara Michiko, president of the Japan-Korea Music and Art Exchange Committee were among the audience.

Fujiwara Yasuhiko, director of the above-mentioned committee, gave an opening speech, in which he stressed the necessity of Japan-Korea friendship and opposing of false charges against the DPRK in connection with the KAL jetliner incident.

A Japan-Korea Friendship "February Music Festival" was held in Osaka, on Feb. 20.

Pyongyang Central Symposium on the Secretary's Work

A central symposium was held at the People's Palace of Culture on Feb. 18 to commemorate the 14th anniversary of the publication of Secretary Kim Jong Il's work on Feb. 19, 1974, which clarified some immediate tasks of the party in its ideological work for modelling the whole of society on the Juche idea.

Speeches were made under many titles such as "The February 19, 1974 work of Dear Comrade Kim Jong Il Is a Programmatic Work Opening Up a Bright Road to Accomplish the Final Victory of the Cause of Communism under the Banner of the Great Juche Idea" and "The Theory on the Subject of the Revolution Expounded by Dear Comrade Kim Jong Il Is a Powerful Weapon Guaranteeing the Triumph of the Cause of Modelling the Whole of Society on the Juche Idea."

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should be used as a pretext for provoking a war at any time in an attempt to save the military dictatorship in the south from crisis, he said and warned, "We will never tolerate the U.S. and their stooges to provoke and threaten our Republic recklessly."

In an attempt to improve relations with the U.S. and south Korea the DPRK President has refrained from using such strong language in his recent speeches.

However, his latest official speech suggests that he is frustrated by the United States' aggressive and confrontational policy in Korea.

In the President's New Year address he said: "The United States continues its military occupation of south Korea, still avoiding the proposed tripartite talks. This shows that they have no intention of settling even the regional issue, still less preserving world peace."

The DPRK has maintained that relations with the United States should be improved if the Korean question is going to be settled peacefully.

However, Pyongyang has said that it has no intention of begging the United States. (Foreign Ministry spokesman, Jan. 25, 1988)

In banquet speeches, both leaders attacked South African racists for their increased aggression against neighbouring countries.

The DPRK President called for international sanctions against South Africa while the Zambian President asked the DPRK to play a leading role in calling for the economical isolation of South Africa which, he said, will "force the minority racist regime in Pretoria to abandon the inhuman system of apartheid."

The DPRK President was awarded "The Order of the Grand Companion of Freedom", first class of the Republic of Zambia. At the same time, the Zambian President was awarded Order of Freedom and Independence First Class of the DPRK. The orders were conferred on Feb. 26 with a due ceremony.

The Zambian President was the first head of state to visit the DPRK this year. This was his third visit to Korea.

Verification: KAL Incident (1)– Wrong Identification of "Life Raft"

Korean Air (KAL) said on Dec. 16 that there is a "strong possibility" that the missing KAL jetliner with 115 people aboard "exploded in midair" and put a "life raft" spotted and collected by a Burmese freighter on the Andaman Sea south of Burma on Dec. 13 to warrant its version of "explosion in midair."

The south Korean authorities claimed that traces of destruction were found in pieces of the collected "wreckage" – a "life raft" of KAL Flight 858.

With the "wreckage" believed to be part of the ill-fated KAL plane found on the Andaman Sea by the U.S. Navy's P3C Orion aircraft (Dec. 10) and Burmese freighter Dagon No. 1 (Dec. 13), the sensational "extradition" of "Mayumi" was successfully realized on the eve of south Korea's presidential election on Dec. 15, though the Bahrainian authorities had been reluctant to send her to Seoul as there had been no legal ground for their extradition – 1) No linkage proved between "Mayumi" and the KAL jetliner's disappearance; 2) No evidence of KAL Flight 858's explosion.

Therefore, the "discovery" of the "life raft" played a decisive role in facilitating "Mayumi's extradition" to Seoul.

As Seoul warrants the "explosion" version only on the basis of the "life raft", this should be closely studied before concluding that the KAL jetliner was "blasted by the north Korean agents" only with "Mayumi's confession."

As a result of a close scrutiny into Seoul's "material evidence" – the "life raft", we cannot but cast deep doubts on the "evidence of explosion" itself.

* * *

The main reason that makes the KAL incident incomprehensible and mysterious is the fact that the body of the ill-fated jetliner has not been found yet three months after its disappearance except for the above-mentioned "life raft."

There have been a number of airplane accidents or incidents at sea, but the fuselages or a number of "fragments from the aircraft" have been found and collected to verify the cause of the incidents except one – the vanishment of a Varig Braizilian Air jetliner in the Atlantic Ocean in January 1979.

In the case of the latest South African Air crash in which all the passengers were killed in the Indian Ocean in December 1987, the whereabouts of the crashed aircraft was found only three days after the disappearance of the plane as the black box was transmiting a signal from the sea bottom some 4,000 meters deep and 13 dead bodies were recovered soon.

Even in case of the KAL shotdown incident in September 1983 in which the spying KAL jambo jetliner was downed , a lot of wreckage was found and collected in the sea near Sakhalin and on the shores of Hokkaido, Japan.

In the latest KAL incident, however, the only "wreckage" collected on the scene was no more than the "life raft" discovered on Dec. 13 by a Burmese freighter at lat. 14° 51" N. and Long. 97° 15' E., about 333km off Rangoon, (Burmese authorities' official announcement on Dec. 15) or about 300km off the spot where the American Navy's P3C aircraft had found the "wreckage" of the KAL jetliner Flight 858 which is believed to have crashed on Dec. 10.

The "life raft" transferred to Seoul on Dec. 17 was made public to domestic and foreign mass media.

The south Korean authorities "confirmed" that the disclosed "wreckage" was part of the ill-fated jetliner through the inscriptions on the "life raft."

대한항공측이 버마정부로부터 인수한 KAL858편의 잔해들. 구명보트 안에는 비상식량과 약품등 50여점이 그대로 보존돼있었다.

The "wreckage of KAL jetliner Flight 858", what Seoul claims, were made public on Dec. 17 to mass media. The south Korea's Kyonghyang Shinmun put a photo caption: "Some 50 items (of the wreckage) including emergency foodstuffs and medicines were being kept intact inside the life boat." (Photo from Kyonghyang Shinmun, Dec. 18)

Shown below left (the black fragments) are the "oxygen pump", the south Koreans claim, destroyed by fire. But other items of the "wreckage" including nitrogen cylinders held by the man (right) had no trace of being burnt or destroyed. (Photo from Chosun Ilbo, Dec. 18, 1987)

Out of some 50 "fragments" including emergency foodstuffs, medicines and nitrogen cylinders, the oxygen pump was found destroyed by fire – which was the sole ground on which Seoul insisted that the plane was "exploded in midair," as KAL officials said, "An explosion may explain why a life raft spotted and collected by a Burmese freighter in the Andaman Sea south of Burma on Dec. 13 had not been used." (Mainich Daily News, Dec. 16, 1987)

Why Was Only the "Oxygen Pump" Burnt?

A close inspection of the "evidence of explosion" will reveal a serious self-contradiction in the account of Seoul.

Strangely enough, only the oxygen pump was found destroyed by fire, but no other items.

On this point, the south Korean Transportation Ministry released a misleading announcement when it said on Dec. 19, "The oxygen pump of the life raft was completely destroyed and other parts of the boat were also seriously damaged." (Kyodo dispatch from Seoul)

South Korean dailies reversed the authorities' account–even the pro-government Kyonghyang Shinmun dated Dec. 18 said, "The wreckage of KAL Flight 858 which KAL received from the Burmese government. It included more than 50 items such as emergency food and medicines which were kept intact inside the life boat."

This means that the "life raft" was found in its original form as it was installed in the cabin.

The transportation ministry's account can be seen as a deliberate manipulation of mass media to create the impression that the aircraft had been exploded into pieces.

Whatever the case, attention should be paid to the fact that the "life raft" was found as it was installed in the cabin.

This fact is also endorsed by south Korea's Hankook Ilbo dated Dec. 16 which said, ". . . And inside it (life raft) a total of 13 items including nitrogen cylinders, signal gun and first-aid medicines were packed in a bundle."

This presents a serious question to be answered by Seoul – Why was only the oxygen pump alone destroyed by fire though other items were kept intact?

Tanaka Masabumi, former captain of Japan Air Line, said: "A life raft is usually covered with a thick rubber canvas. Inside which all the survival items are placed such as first-aid medicines, a desalination device, an oxygen pump, a signal gun and so on. Therefore, it is virtually impossible that only the oxygen pump was destroyed by fire of all the items covered with thick canvas all together."

He asserts that there is no possibility of only the oxygen pump having been burnt by fire, if the aircraft was exploded in midair, because all the survival items are packed in a bundle in a life raft.

Moreover, aircraft specialists say that the "life raft" cannot be defined as "wreckage" of the aircraft.

JAL's second officer Ashizawa Naoshi maintains that the "life raft" is nothing but an outfit of the plane and cannot be said as part of the fuselage.

If his view is correct, it should be concluded that no "part" or "wreckage" of the KAL Flight 858 has been found yet!

(To be continued)

Against Roh's Rise to Power

More than 2,000 students staged a demonstration in the main street in Seoul on Feb. 24 in protest against Roh Tae Woo's rise to power. The demonstrators fought a fierce battle with tear-gas firing riot police for hours.

Thirty three demonstrations were also staged that day in eight other cities including Pusan, Kwangju and Taegu to oppose Roh's rise to power.

They chanted: "Halt to President-elect Roh Tae Woo, the murderer!", "Down with Roh Tae Woo!" and so on.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Information Service building in downtown Seoul was occupied the same day by Seoul's university students in a show of their protest against the U.S.'s policy toward south Korea.

They shouted slogans: "Go away U.S. which is self-indulgent in economic aggression" with placards reading "Go away the Americans which support dictatorship and interfere in our domestic affairs! " and "Stop pressure to open market! " hanging out of windows.

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launcher hit him in the groin. "Witnesses said he was bleeding as he was taken to a hospital," the paper said.

In Kwangju, hundreds of firebombs-hurling protesters set fire to a wooden arch set up to celebrate the inauguration of Roh. The city is the site of a 1980 popular uprising against Chun Doo Hwan that was bloodily suppressed by the army.

Many students shouted anti-American slogans claiming the United States has rigged the election that put Roh in power. "Down with the U.S.," protesters yelled.

Earlier on Feb. 24, five students armed with bombs and knives seized a U.S. Information Service office in Seoul, smashed windows and set the building afire, shouting, "Yankee go home" as riot police ringed the building.

The students, who called themselves members of the "Young Student Suicide Group" claimed they had 18

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"Americans Out with N-Weapons!"

U.S.'s Aggressive Mil. Policy Denounced Worldwide (2)

—U.S. Should Withdraw Its Troops & Nukes from S. Korea and the World—

Song Jae Ryong
Editor

(Continued from the previous issue)

Washington today must look to its allies including Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany, asking them to expand their economies. However, how can the White House guarantee global economic condition? And how do the allied countries prepare to help finance the United States this year? Now, U.S. President Reagan faces both these serious issues very difficult for him to solve.

This is the reason why there is little movement in Tokyo, Bonn or elsewhere towards a coordinated international "mutual assistance" that would be conducive to "stabilizing" global economic conditions, including the economic conditions of the USA. And especially the governments of Japan and European countries are reluctant to believe that the vagaries of the U.S. political process will produce or sustain a prudent economic policy.

They know well this year is a political year in which no real policy initiatives are possible; they look to a successor to Reagan with little enthusiasm. They are even inclined to recognize the improvements in the manufacturing sector that are occurring in America.

The above-said figures indicate the U.S. trade and budget deficits remain excessive; the rapid accumulation of foreign and domestic indebtedness continues; and the policy-making process is bankrupt in spite of its brain's desperate effort to prevent the budget deficit of this year from much exceeding last year's level.

Concerning this problem, The Washington Post exposed a secret Pentagon briefing by two senior officials warning of a $750 billion shortfall in the Reagan rearmament program. Washington's System Planning Corp. warned that the shortfall could be $3.6 trillion by 2010 if the Pentagon's present buying plans are not radically changed.

If the Reagan administration fails to define a coordinated financial policy, while assistance from its allies is not forthcoming Washington's financial turmoil and economic decline is almost sure to come in the near future.

It is high time, therefore, for the White House to find the way out for its colossal debts to cut armament expenditures and especially to pull out its armed forces and nuclear weapons from all parts of the world including the Korean Peninsula.

The Soviet Union began withdrawing nuclear missiles and their troop units from East Germany on Feb. 25 aimed at speeding up ratification of a superpower arms treaty, foreign ministry spokesman of the GDR W. Meyer said. In Prague, the Ceteka News Agency reported on the same day a similar withdrawal was taking place in Czechoslovakia.

Mr. Meyer said the decision to pull out the SS-12 missiles before ratification of the Moscow-Washington treaty to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) was intended to bolster East-West confidence.

"It's a great step they are taking. Let's hope the U.S. follows this example," M. Oswald, a local decorator in Bischofswerda, the GDR, said as he took part in the festive send-off of the troops.

These moves, before the INF treaty scrapping such missiles is ratified, are renewed evidence of the constructive peace-loving policy of the Soviet Union, the GDR and other socialist countries.

However, the Washington authorities have now secretly made a ground launching test on laser weapons in preparation for the "Star Wars Program," tried missile launching tests for the perfection of sophisticated nuclear weapons and are going to produce binary chemical weapons.

The Reagan administration stated that the "Star Wars Program" was a "defense system intended for the elimination of nuclear weapons and for a more stable world," clamoring that it is, indeed, the "bedrock of the U.S. policy and a first and foremost one."

Reagan's utterances in wake of his signing of the INF Treaty indicate the Pentagon's intention to ensure nuclear supremacy and impose a nuclear holocaust upon mankind, and that he is not interested at all in disarmament.

Washington's "Star Wars Program" is a dangerous plan for a nuclear war, a plan to expand the deployment of nuclear weapons to outer space. And its insistence that the Program is a "defensive one benefiting" mankind is no more than a sophistry to conceal the criminal purpose.

U.S. and south Korea armed forces storm ashore on landing vehicles as the "Team Spirit" joint exercise reaches a climax in a landing operation at Pohang, about 170 miles southeast of Seoul on Mar. 20, 1985.

Flashpoint—Korean Peninsula

The United States was the first to use and deploy nuclear weapons in Asia and the Pacific.

The Washington warmongers nearly ignited a nuclear attack on Korea and China in the 1950s.

Richard Armitage, U.S. assistant secretary of defense and Reagan's Pacific Architect in the Pentagon said:

"The strategic importance of the Pacific to the United States is attested by the fact that five of our eight mutual security treaties are with nations of the region. The world's six largest armed forces are in the area of responsibility of the United States Pacific Command: those of the Soviet Union, China, Vietnam, India, North Korea, and the United States. Five of these six have been at a war a within the past 11 years and the sixth is North Korea who, some have said, is at war all the time." (The United States' Role in the Pacific", Paper to National Defense University, Pacific Symposium, Honolulu, Feb. 22, 1985)

Today, it is possible that the Pentagon will launch nuclear attacks in the Pacific than in Europe. Because in Europe, Washington must consult with its allied nations in the multilateral framework of NATO, while the United States has close relations with its allies in the Pacific, where it has a growing number of political and economic strongholds, including south Korea and Japan.

And America feels no urgent need to discuss nuclear deployments there with its allies. With its recent changes in war strategy, Washington, enjoying nuclear "superiority" is bringing itself closer to the brink of nuclear war in the Pacific than it has ever done since the 1950s.

The United States has not made a nuclear attack since 1945, but it has constantly threatened Pyongyang with Washington-Seoul joint military exercises known as "Team Spirit."

Therefore, the following warnings must surely be remembered:

"Nuclear war could erupt in a few minutes on the divided Korean Peninsula, where two heavily armed forces confront each other—and where the U.S. keeps its finger on a nuclear hair trigger." (American Lake, Nuclear Peril in the Pacific by P. Hayes, L. Zarsky & W. Bellow)

The Reagan administration is now reinforcing its aggressive armed forces in south Korea, running amock with provocation moves for nuclear war to bring the situation on the Korean Peninsula to a higher pitch of strain.

President Reagan recently signed an expenditure bill railroaded through the U.S. Congress at the end of December last year, which earmarks $102 million for 1988 military buildup spending for the U.S. troops occupying south Korea.

The U.S. plans to spend this fund to reinforce and expand U.S. air bases in Kunsan, Osan and Suwon in south Korea and build ammunition depots and bases of war supplies in different parts of south Korea.

As is widely known, the number of U.S. soldiers stationed in the "ROK" increased in 1986 by 3,766 from 41,392 in 1985 to 45,158. ("Defense 86", an almanac by the Department of Defense) It is said that already deployed there against the northern half of Korea are more than 1,000 nuclear weapons, Lance missiles, Honest John missiles, Sergeant and other means of nuclear delivery, and atomic guns such as 8-inch and 15mm Howitzers and that in recent years 50 or more neutron bombs known as devil's weapons in the 20th century" and back-pack nukes for special operational units have been brought there.

South Korea has turned into the biggest nuclear arsenal in the Far East, four times larger than that of the NATO member nations in terms of the destiny of nuclear arms deployment.

The Washington authorities also deployed there such fighter bombers capable of carrying nuclear bombs as F-15 and F-16, B-52 strategic bombers and an E-4B, a nuclear commanding plane for action, put them in round-the-clock rediness and are now planning to deploy a "nuclear quick reaction force" capable of making a sortie in five minutes with nuclear weapons aboard bombers in case of emergency.

Moreover, they are pursuing along the road of nuclear-war provocations despite Pyongyang authorities stern warnings that the Korean Peninsula faces a war situation.

So strained a situation has been created now on the Korean Peninsula that even a small accident might lead to the outbreak of a nuclear war, in view of such provocative acts as "Team Spirit" military exercises, and Washington-Seoul-Japan-coordinated anti-DPRK smear campaigns in connection with the KAL airliner incident.

The American Friends Service Committee, a US Quaker organization, in its recently published book entitled "Two Koreas – One Future? ", called on the Washington authorites to immediately suspend military exercises in and around the Korean Peninsula and withdraw U.S. troops from south Korea, stressing the need for the U.S. to adopt a more open attitude toward the Pyongyang authorities. The Quaker organization also urged north and south Korea to agree on a mutual non-aggression "pact" and immediately reduce the number of troops on either side of the Demilitarized Zone.

In spite of this situation, Pentagon-backed "ROK" assistant foreign minister Park Soo Gil clamored that "We now find it more necessary than ever to have Team Spirit maneuvers. The more exercises we have, the better."

(To be continued)

(Continued from page 4)

bombs and yelled at surrounding police to stay away. They tossed down a statement charging the United States was attempting to make south Korea a colony. Some 200 students clashed with riot police about an hour later outside Myongdong Cathedral. Hundreds of protesters had gathered at the cathedral less than a mile from the USIS office earlier in the afternoon for an anti-government protest.

Earlier on Feb. 22, the NCD published a statement, declaring invalidity of the "presidential inauguration" on Feb. 25. The statement said that the present military rulers are illegally clinging to power through an unprecedented scale of election fraud.

Meanwhile, two main opposition leaders Kim Young Sam and Kim Dae Jung refused to attend the inauguration, with spokesmen for their respective parties reiterating allegations of election fraud.

Roh Tae Woo, former general who helped Chun Doo Hwan seize power in the 1980 coup, won a "landslide victory" in the presidential election in December last year, while opposition candidates and many south Korean people charged that massive election fraud allowed him to win. Roh gathered less than 40% of vote. As the majority of south Korean people don't recognize his presidency, further disturbances and protests can be expected.

DPRK Preparatory Com. for N-S Joint Conf. Raps S. Korea

PYONGYANG, Feb. 20 (KCNA) – The Preparatory Committee of the North Side to a North-South Joint Conference issued today a statement denouncing such treacherous moves of the south Korean authorities as laying obstacles in the way of convening a north-south joint conference, averting our new nation-salvation proposal and further aggravating the situation.

The statement says:

As already reported, proceeding from the noble desire to provide this year with the opportunity of a new change for national reconciliation and unity between north and south at any cost, we advanced a new epoch-making proposal for convening a north-south joint conference attended by persons in authority of both sides and the representatives of all the political parties and social organizations and people of all social standings.

In order to open the historical north-south joint conference as soon as possible, the Central People's Committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Administration Council, political parties and public organizations on Jan. 13 held a joint meeting and formed a preparatory committee of the north side and adopted a letter of the south Korean side.

In the letter we proposed to hold a preliminary meeting of the north-south joint conference at Panmunjom on Feb. 19.

We have since waited for an affirmative response from the south Korean side to it, while going ahead with all preparations for the meeting after forming a delegation to the preliminary meeting.

But there has been no reply from the south Korean side although nearly a month has passed. So we sent a telephone message to it on Feb. 9 to know whether the letter was conveyed or not.

In the reply notice sent to our side on Feb. 12, that is three days after they had received a telephone notice from our side the south Korean authorities took a very improper attitude by saying that a mention made about our proposal for the convocation of a north-south joint conference in the last part of the "statement" released in connection with the KAL incident on Jan. 15 would be a reply to our proposal.

The attitude taken by the south Korean authorities toward the letter sent by our side proposing a dialogue through a regular channel between the north and south cannot be construed otherwise than a very insolent and rude act without precedent in the north-south relations.

In a "statement of the spokesman for the ministry of culture and information" issued on Feb. 12, in particular, the south Korean authorities made clear their stand totally rejecting negotiation, averting our proposal for the convocation of a north-south joint conference and malignantly slandering our side.

The south Korean authorities' stand against dialogue and peace has rendered it impossible to open a preliminary meeting for a north-south joint conference which attracts concern and expectation of domestic and foreign public. This is one more crime committed by the south Korean authorities before the nation.

The main purpose of our side's proposal to convene a north-south joint conference is to solve the immediate problems arising in the north-south relations at the moment according to the common will of the nation and thus achieve reconciliation and unity between the north and south and make this year a year of epochal turn in the history of national division.

This proposal of ours is a very fair and aboveboard and realistic one for national salvation in view of the urgency of the matters to be discussed and settled at the talks, rationality of the way of talks or the period of the dialogue; it is an unselfish nation-saving step stemming from the patriotic idea and peace-loving stand truly to promote the peace and peaceful reunification of the country.

By announcing the "results of investigation" into the KAL incident the day after they took over our letter, however, the south Korean authorities answered it with a new anti-DPRK smear campaign and recklessly cried down our proposal, labelling it as a "camouflaged peace offensive" and as one to "split national opinion."

As for the KAL incident, it has nothing to do with the DPRK, as we have already made clear. It is a self-made drama of the south Korean authorities for their sinister political purpose.

Their announcement of the "results of investigation" is a deliberate provocation intended to prevent the influence of our reasonable proposal for a north-south joint conference and lay an obstacle to its convocation.

It is a challenge to national reconciliation and unity that the south Korean authorities slandered the proposal for a north-south joint conference as a "camouflaged peace offensive" and as one to "split national opinion."

The south Korean authorities can confirm whether our proposal for negotiation is a "camouflaged peace offensive" or not only when they are seated at the conference table.

They have no right to say anything, just sitting in the chair in the south of the Demarcation Line. The south Korean authorities make a false propaganda about a "camouflaged peace offensive", far from coming to the table of the north-south joint conferecne. This only self-exposes that they have no intention for north-south dialogue.

Their assertion that our proposal for a north-south joint conference is to "split national opinion" is a sinister trick to exclude all parties, groupings and figures of all social standings from the dialogue for the solution of the reunification question and monopolize the north-south dialogue, and a perfidy of gainsaying themselves even their "commitment" that they would "reflect" the people's will in "state affairs."

What is more serious is the fact that when we proposed to discuss the problem of discontinuing large-scale military exercises, the south Korean authorities, together with the United States, have launched the "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal against us.

It admits of no dispute that the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercise which will last till May from early February with huge armed forces 200,000 strong involved is provocative war moves to further aggravate confrontation between the north and the south and lead the situation on the Korean Peninsula to the brink of a war.

The south Korean rulers in league with outside forces answered the proposal for dialogue by their fellow countrymen with nuclear war exercises. Isn't this a crime against the nation and peace?

All facts clearly show that "reconciliation", "detente" and "dialogue" so far clamoured about by the south Korean rulers are all sham and they only pursue north-south confrontation and war.

The Preparatory Committee of the North Side to a North-South Joint Conference vehemently condemn in the name of the whole nation the treacherous moves of the south Korean authorities to lay obstacles to the convocation of a north-south joint conference, turning their faces away from our new nation-saving proposal and further aggravating the situation. There is no change in our stand to open a new phase of national reconciliation and unity between the north and the south within this year through an early opening of a north-south joint conference.

The preparatory committee of the north side to the conference will make in the future, too, every sincere effort for an early convocation of the north-south joint conference, the most reasonable form of negotiation aimed at settling the question of peace in Korea and her reunification at the moment and remain true to the last to its national mission.

The south Korean authorities had better drop even now its anti-dialogue, anti-peace stance and positively respond without delay to our proposal for the convocation of the north-south joint conference.

Should they keep to the road of confrontation and war, turning down the proposal for the north-south joint conference, they will be held wholly responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.

We together with all fellow countrymen desirous of peace in the country and its peaceful reunification will follow the attitude of the south Korean authorities.

We express the expectation that political parties, social organizations and personages of all social standings will check the moves of the splittists to make the north-south dialogue their political plaything and make proper efforts for the earliest possible convocation of the historical north-south joint conference which will be a forum of national reconciliation and unity.

Foreign Dels. Hit U.S., Japan & S. Korea On KAL Incident

—At UN Security Council—

Delegates of different countries denounced the base fakeup of the United States, Japan and south Korea at a meeting of the U.N. Security Council at which an unjust discussion of the KAL incident was held over Feb. 16 and 17, according to a report.

A Soviet delegate opposed the discussion of the KAL incident at the meeting of the U.N. Security Council and noted that the council is used in encouraging the political plot and denounced the forces for trying to use the KAL incident as a tool of political propaganda at the meeting.

The attempts to shift the blame on to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea before investigation are contradictory to the fact, he stated.

The slander against the DPRK is clearly aimed at speaking ill of the external policy of the DPRK and diverting elsewhere the attention from the efforts made by the DPRK government to guarantee peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, convert it into a nuclear-free zone and develop the north-south dialogue to reunify Korea on a peaceful and democratic basis.

A Chinese delegate expressed its view that it is unjust for the U.N. Security Council to deliberate on the KAL incident and warned against the moves to use the discussion of the council for the purpose of aggravating the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

A Yugoslav delegate said that a conclusion must not be drawn in haste and no one should be denounced before the truth of the KAL incident has been clarified and stated that the deliberation at a meeting of the council must not result in aggravating the present tense situation on the Korean Peninsula.

Delegates of Nepal, Zambia and other countries warned that an attempt to shift the blame on to other before the settlement of the KAL incident is unfavourable to security and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

At the meeting Pak Gil Yon, chief of the DPRK Permanent Observe Mission in the United Nations, made a speech disclosing the criminal inside of the drama directed and staged by the south Korean junta over the KAL incident.

Entrance Examinations Held at Korean High Schools Here

The entrance examinations for Korean high schools in 1988 were held on Feb. 20 at all the 12 Korean high schools throughout Japan.

Students who made applications for enrollment in them took examinations in Korean, mathematics, Japanese, English and science.

There are 152 Chongryun-run Korean schools from kindergarten to university in Japan.

Photo: at the Tokyo Korean Senior High School.

Babies for Sale

South Koreans Make Them, Americans Buy Them

(Continued from No. 1,372 issue of The People's Korea)

For the last several years, the Korean government has urged the adoption agencies to increase domestic adoptions. From 1976 to 1978, it even imposed quotas on the agencies. But the program did not succeed. "Domestic adoptions are not that active," Park says. About 3,000 children were adopted in Korea in 1986.

In fiscal 1981, American families adopted 2,444 Koreans, according to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). In fiscal 1986, they adopted 6,254.

The demand from the United States is fueling the business. One out of every twelve married couples in the United States is infertile, the U.S. Center for Health Statistics reports. The domestic supply of babies up for adoption simply cannot keep up with the demand.

"Two million couples would like to adopt in this country," says Jeffrey Rosenberg, the director of public policy for the National Committee for Adoption. "And there are only 20,000 healthy children available for adoption. That's a 100-to-1 ratio."

The supply is so coveted that the Community Adoption Center in Madison, Wisconsin, has sponsored a "Healthy White Infant Lottery." The entry fee is $300, but the winner still has to pay $5,000.

Because of the tight domestic market, Americans are increasingly looking abroad for children, and foreign adoptions are booming. "It's the highest it's ever been," says Rosenberg. "It's the fastest area of adoption growth in this country."

Nowhere is it faster than in South Korea.

"You got big bucks here. You're talking dollars," says Robert Ackerman, the INS officer in charge at the U.S. embassy in Seoul. "I see much potential for hanky-panky."

The adoption agencies in Korea collect about $2,000 a child right off the top. Then they charge American families $1,000 for transportation of the child to the United States. (A one-way coach fare from Seoul to Chicago costs $700, and the agencies receive a discount from the airlines. They also collect a donation of between $250 and $400 from each "escort" who travels with the baby on the plane; the agency picks up the airfare for the escort.) The adoption-placement agency in the United States then charges about $1,500 for its services. Add another $500 for legal paperwork and miscellaneous processing, and the total comes to $5,000. Often, it is several hundred dollars more.

Ackerman combs each adoption application to make sure everything is on the up and up. He is a direct forceful man, and he's been known to terrify social workers from the adoption agencies with his gruff manner.

"He rejects too many applications," complains Dr. Kim Do-Young, executive director of Eastern Child Welfare Society, the second largest adoption agency in Korea.

The adoption business troubles Ackerman. "I get bothered by it," he says. "Five hundred kids a month is an incredibly high number for just a humanitarian issue. One has to question where humanitarianism stops and business begins."

He has heard allegations of mothers being bribed to give up their babies, but in his five years at the embassy he's never been able to confirm them. "It would be very disturbing if they were buying babies from the parents," he says.

But Korea is not like El Salvador, Mexico or Sri Lanka, where a black market in babies seems to flourish. In Korea, it is more institutionalized, efficient, and aboveboard.

Virtually from conception, the adoption agencies have established a system of guaranteeing a steady supply of healthy children. They support pregnant-women's homes; in fact, three of the four agencies run their own. One of the agencies has its own maternity hospital and does its own deliveries. All four provide and subsidize child care. All pay foster mothers about $80 a month to care for the infants, and the agencies provide the food and clothing and other supplies free of charge. And they support orphanages, or operate them themselves. When the time for departures arrives, the babies are flown off to their foreign families, escorted by strangers who wait in line for their discounted airfares.

"I've had to ask myself, do we really have baby factories here? " Ackerman says.

He also has asked himself whether some of the religiously oriented agencies were viewing adoptions as a quick means of spreading the gospel, a head start on proselytizing. "It's crossed my mind," he says, but the agencies don't insist on strict applications of their religious standards. "There is a broad cross-section of adoptive parents, as far as a variety of religion goes."

For all his doubts, Ackerman comes out in favor of the adoption agencies. "On balance, it's probably more humane to allow them to stay in business," he says. "They are probably doing a service to the baby, the mother, and the adoptive parents." What's more, he says, adoptions from Korea are more regulated and less expensive than adoptions from other foreign countries.

To a great extent, the social workers are the heavies. They are hired by the adoption agencies and the pregnant-women's homes to persuade mothers to give up their children.

Most mothers are relieved, "but some have a guilty sense their whole life," says Chun Byung-Hoon, president of Social Welfare Society, one of the four adoption agencies. " It's a very sad story, you know. Some girls want to keep their children, but the social worker persuades her that that's impossible, so she gives up the child."

One social worker couldn't take it any longer. She was employed by one of the four adoption agencies for several years, and she was appalled by the increasing callousness and the competition.

"It's really like dealing with a product instead of taking care of the mother and child," the social worker told me, speaking on condition that she would not be identified. "Our weekly staff meetings were all about numbers. How many babies did we get that week? The numbers were the most important thing."

It never used to be so bad, she says. Before, agencies would work hard on their "sponsorship" programs, they would solicit charitable donations from Koreans and foreigners to care for the child in Korea. Not any longer.

"What's really happened is there is no interest in the sponsorship program," she says. "There's too much competition for babies."

This social worker had the unenviable task of taking the baby from the mother right at the hospital. "I was assigned to seven hospitals and clinics, and I was supposed to cultivate them," she says. "Any time there were children available for adoption, I was notified and I'd go to the hospital. I would talk to the mothers, and ask them to sign the papers."

Money did change hands. "I would pay the doctor for her medical fees and ask the doctor to pay the mother," she says. "In some cases, the doctor would tell me to give the money directly to the mother." The amount varied widely; sometimes it was just enough to pay the mother's bus fare back home.

Finally, she quit, "As a trained social worker," she says, "I could no longer continue to work in an agency where the basic concern was economic, with very little thought about the mother and the child and what was happening to them."

Payments are routine to maternity hospitals, midwives, and obstetricians, officials at each of the four agencies acknowledged. The agencies will cover the costs of the delivery and of the medical care for any woman who gives up her baby for adoption.

"We pay for our girls," says the Reverend Yoon Jae-Sung, secretary general of Holt, referring to the women Holt sends to the hospital from its counseling service or from its affiliated pregnant-women's home. And if hospitals spend other babies over to Holt, "we'll give them a little help."

The agencies also use their influence with hospitals, and with the police, to acquire abandoned children. "The agencies have all the connections with the hospitals and the police stations," says Dom Yano Park, who helps run Seoul Boystown with Father Aloysius Schwartz. Seoul Boystown is one of the largest orphanages in Korea, housing 2,500 children between the ages of three and fifteen.

Under photographs showing Nancy Reagan visiting Seoul Boystown, Dom Yano Park explains how the agencies work. "They constantly try to get the babies from hospitals and the police," he says. "They are so desperate to get babies to meet the demand, to fill the demand from the American side."

Hospitals and the police oblige, Dom Yano Park says, by handing over abandoned children to the agencies. Then, when mothers come to Boystown looking for their children, they are nowhere to be found.

Dom Yano Park opposes foreign adoption and objects to the practices of the adoption agencies. "If charity work is carried out so perfectly and mechanically in the business style," he says, "it loses the essence of charity."

Molly Holt is founder Harry Holt's oldest living daughter. She still works at Ilsan, the home for handicapped children that her father established in 1964. It has 300 permanent residents now. Though her primary concern is with these handicapped children and the institution run by Holt Korea, she strongly supports the international adoptions.

"Those who are opposed to these adoptions are people from the upper strata of society," she says. "Of course, it's better if a child stays with its own family. Of course, it's better if a child is adopted by a Korean family. But as yet, we don't have enough families, and it's better for a country to allow its children to seek families abroad than to have the children warehoused." *(Excerpts from an article by Matthew Rothschild, the managing editor of The Progressive for the issue dated Jan. 18, 1988)*

(To be continued)

Korean, Japanese Businessmen Hold Confab. On KAL Incident

The meeting was held in an active and friendly atmosphere.

Under the sponsorship of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, some 420 Korean and Japanese prominent men from the economic world assembled at the Takara Hotel in Tokyo on Feb. 17, to try and get at the truth of the south Korean jetliner incident.

Chairman Li Jong Tae of the federation explained the purpose of the meeting and expressed his determination to develop friendly relations and improve economic ties between Korean and Japanese businessmen.

He was followed by two Japanese guest speakers.

Den Hideo, a member of the Japanese House of Councillors, pointed out that there were a number of contradictions and lies in the south Korean version of events and went on to hypothesize that if we assume the incident to be a fabrication by the south Korean regime, then all the questions are solved.

He also drew attention to the fact that the Japanese media have presented a one-sided account of the incident and have ignored the DPRK's claims.

The Japanese critic, Nakagawa Nobuo, coalesced with Mr. Den and elaborated on several points which indicated that the KAL inident was fabricated by the south Korean regime.

A Japanese man involved in the insurance business said: "At first I thought the incident was the work of the DPRK. However, I changed my ideas once I became aware of the many contradictions and unanswered questions arising from the incident." He went on to express regret for the recent violence against female Korean school children by Japanese hooligans.

Chief Director Choe Il Su of the federation rounded off the meeting with a speech in which he emphasized that the incident was masterminded by the south Korean regime to bolster its chances of winning the "presidential elections" and hosting the Olympics single-handedly.

He also said:

"Korean businessmen and industrialists are now suffering from, among other things, rejection of financing resulting from the anti-Chongryun campaign."

KAL Incident: Fact or Fiction? (2)

By Steve Williams
Special to The People's Korea

(Continued from the previous issue)

Doubt and Uncertainties

Both of the accused bombers had Japanese passports and were travelling as a father and his daughter. The man, Kim Sung Il, had a passport in the name of Shinichi Hachiya and the woman, Kim Hyon Hui, had a passport in the name of Mayumi Hachiya.

According to U.S. Ambassador Vernon Walters, American experts who examined the passports believed that they were so well made only a government agency could have made them.

However, the couple were apprehended in Bahrain because Kim Hyon Hui's passport had a number which is only issued to men.

The ANSP claimed that a north Korean passport forging group were involved in the plot. However, this raises the question of why supposed professional passport forgers failed to notice such a glaring mistake that would easily lead to detection.

Surely a well-trained north Korean agent would have had a better forgery or was Kim Hyon Hui's bogus passport part of a plan that called for her to be arrested in Bahrain?

Consideration must be given to the fact that it was the south Korean embassy in Bahrain that asked a Japanese embassy official to check the couple's passports.

Although the number of Kim Sung Il's passport was correct, it was still far from perfect.

Shortly after the incident, it was reported in Japan that Shinichi Hachiya had been linked to Akira Miyamoto, a "north Korean agent" being looked out for by Japanese security authorities.

Once again, this raises the question of why supposed professional north Korean passport forgers would use a name that could be linked to a known spy.

It is worth remembering that when the KCIA kidnapped Kim Dae Jung from a hotel in Tokyo, they left north Korean cigarettes in a feeble attempt to implicate the north.

The logic behind this was a little difficult to follow at the time. Why would the north kidnap the main opponent of the military regime in the south?

Similarly, the logic behind the KAL incident is a little difficult to follow. Only the south Korean regime stood to gain anything from an incident like this, whereas north Korea stood to lose everything it had been working for over the last few years.

Another question arises from the fact that the couple spent two days in Bahrain after the bombing, touring the city and taking photographs. If they had been the actual bombers, they had ample time to flee to a safe country.

How did Kim Hyon Hui manage to survive the suicide attempt? She said she lost consciousness immediately after biting an ampule of cyanide concealed in a cigarette. Initial reports claimed she was in a critical condition. However, it soon became evident that she had never been critical. It is unknown if she did in fact take poison.

Her survival was essential if north Korea was to be implicated. Her arrival at Kimpo Airport the day before the presidential election and her press conference two days before the deadline for applications for the Seoul Olympics could not have been better timed to benefit the south Korean authorities.

South Korean officials became very irate when Bahrainian authorities did not respond quickly to their extradition requests.

Foreign Minister Choi Kwang Soo dispatched a letter to the Bahrainian foreign minister demanding cooperation and sent Vice Minister Park Soo Gil to Manama.

According to the National Democratic Front of south Korea, Park Soo Gil gave "tens of millions of dollars" to Bahrainian authorities to speed up extradition procedures, even though Kim Hyon Hui had retained her right of silence and no proof that a bombing had taken place had been found.

Considering that the plane in question had made two belly landings in 1987 alone, it is surprising that Seoul began claiming the plane had been bombed by north Korean agents so quickly after it had disappeared.

Could Kim Hyon Hui have been set up by the ANSP and forced to coalesce with them once she had been extradited?

The International Herald Tribune pointed out on Jan. 16: "There was nc indication that the south Koreans had any independent evidence to verify their claims other than the account by the woman."

Another question which remains to be answered satisfactorily concerns how the couple managed to get the explosives through security checks at Belgrade and Bagdad airports.

The ANSP has stated that the couple received a time bomb disguised as a radio and a bottle of liquid explosives in Belgrade, before travelling on to Bagdad to board Korean Air Flight 858 bound for Seoul via Abu Dhabi and Bangkok.

If Yugoslavian claims are correct, this was impossible. Based on an investigation by Yugoslavian officials, Yugoslavia's news agency, Tanjug, on Jan. 23, denied that the couple had taken explosives through security checks in Belgrade.

Even if we ignore official Yugoslavian claims that the couple did not have explosives when they boarded an Iraqi plane in Belgrade, we are still left with the question of how the couple could have got explosives through security checks in Bagdad, where they boarded the south Korean jetliner.

Owing to the Iran-Iraq war, the security check at Bagdad is one of the most stringent in the world.

According to Kim Hyon Hui's confession, when Bagdad airport officials told Kim Sung Il that batteries could not be taken on board, he switched on the radio as a gesture of protest.

It is surprising that this was possible considering the radio was supposedly packed with 350 grammes of C4 explosives and a timing device. However, it is even more surprising that Kim Sung Il's gesture of protest was enough to make airport security personnel depart from standard airport regulations and allow the radio, complete with batteries, to be taken onto the aircraft.

One wonders why three months after the incident, there has been no public announcement by Iraq concerning corroboration of Kim Hyon Hui's version of events by the security officials involved. Yet it stands to reason that an internal inquiry would have been made into the security lapse.

Could it be that Iraq does not want to give credence to the DPRK's assertion that the ANSP masterminded the destruction of the aircraft? After all, Iraq severed diplomatic ties with the DPRK in October 1980 because of its close relations with Iran.

In her confession Kim Hyon Hui states that twenty minutes before boarding, Kim Sung Il set the timing device to go off nine hours later and put it and the liquid explosives in a vinyl bag along with some cigarettes. Once aboard he put the vinyl bag into the baggage storage compartment above his seat.

She also said that when they disembarked in Abu Dhabi, leaving the explosives behind, they were both carrying a bag.

This was refuted by flight attendants, who were replaced in Abu Dhabi. At a press conference they stated that Kim Sung Il was not carrying a bag when the couple disembarked.

The question of why the vinyl bag containing the explosives was not discovered after the couple disembarked remains a mystery. Nowadays, it is standard procedure for flight attendants to open the overhead baggage storage compartments of all passengers who get off at a stopover.

Reports from Seoul indicate that the couple had been under observation by south Korean security agents since they left Vienna. If this was the case, surely the bag would have been discovered.

Doubts have also arisen concerning whether or not the amount of explosives cited were capable of destroying the aircraft instantaneously.

A Japanese military explosives expert, in an interview with a Japanese newspaper, stated that although 350 grammes of C4 explosives and 700 cc of P.L.X. (Picatinny Liquid Explosive) would have been enough to destroy the plane, the pilot would have had enough time to send a distress signal. He concluded that there must have been more explosives aboard as the plane disappeared suddenly, indicating a very powerful explosion.

The south Korean transport ministry confirmed that there had been a powerful explosion after examining the severely damaged debris, recovered from the sea off the Burmese coast.

Recently in a programme called News Station, a Japanese documentary team from Asahi Television raised some important questions concerning the debris recovered from the sea.

The television reporters drew attention to the fact that a rubber life raft sustained almost no damage while an inflation device, emergency food and medical supplies stored inside the raft were completely destroyed.

This strange occurrence supports Pyongyang's claim that the debris were scattered by south Koreans to provide "material evidence" that the airplane was bombed.

The Question of Motivation

The ANSP has claimed that north Korea engineered the bombing to discourage Seoul from hosting the Seoul Olympics. However, this is not a very plausible reason for engaging in a terrorist action which would have catastrophic consequences if exposed.

The south Korean administration stood to gain much more from the KAL bombing than north Korea. Among other things, by implicating the north quickly, Roh Tae Woo's victory in the presidential election was secured, the north's co-hosting proposals were scuttled, north Korea was politically isolated and south Korea's military-backed regime gained much needed respectability and legitimacy.

When the aircraft disappeared over the Andaman Sea, Seoul wasted no time in linking the disappearance to Pyongyang and began circulating news that the plane had been bombed by north Korean agents. How did they know the plane had been bombed? Fifteen people, including Mayumi and Shinichi, left the plane at Abu Dhabi. Why did Seoul assume that two Japanese passport holders were the culprits?

Even Roh Tae Woo was claiming the plane had been bombed by north Korean agents before anyone knew what had happened.

Seoul had also been worried by the increased contacts between Pyongyang, Washington and Tokyo. The KAL bombing put an end to this and Seoul was instrumental in having sanctions imposed on north Korea by the United States and Japan.

In this article, I have pointed out that there are very real doubts concerning the true identity of the woman known as Kim Hyon Hui and the contents of her confession. I have drawn attention to the fact that the ANSP has been involved in the manufacture of evidence and I have provided details of a cover-up by south Korean media sources. I have echoed claims that south Korean government officials resorted to bribery in connection with this incident and I have detailed some of the main doubts about whether the bombing mission could have been carried out in the way described in the ANSP's investigation results and the confession. I have also pointed out that south Korea had much more motivation to carry out an incident like this than north Korea.

Having made an analysis of the facts pertaining to the KAL incident, there is no doubt in my mind that things are not as clear-cut as the south Korean authorities would have us believe.

There can be no half truths in an incident like this. Either north Korea is responsible for the bombing or it was the work of the ANSP.

As Kim Hyon Hui has been in the hands of the ANSP since she arrived in south Korea, it is not inconceivable that her extremely dubious confession, the sole evidence linking north Korea to the bombing, could have been obtained by coercion.

The ANSP has been involved in nefarious activities in the past and Roh Tae Woo's regime already has a lot of Korean blood on its hands. Their track record indicates that they were capable of carrying out the bombing.

(End)

Rodong Sinmun on Roh's "Presidency"

(Continued from page 1)

United States, the system of military government based on a military foundation and dictatorial system of the Democratic Justic Party, a political party of military gangsters.

It goes without saying that the Roh regime that succeeded to the Chun Doo Hwan dictatorial regime cannot but be a diabolical military government.

Both Roh and Chun are military hooligans of the same dictatorial origin and are alike.

There is nothing to be changed in south Korea although the "relay" baton of the regime is handed to the traitor Roh from the traitor Chun.

The prolongation of the military government by Roh's coming to power is a product of the colonial enslavement policy of the U.S. toward south Korea.

Accordingly, the people have nothing to expect from the drama "transfer of power" between military gangsters.

Experiences prove that as long as the colonial domination of the U.S. imperialists continues in south Korea, the people's demands for the termination of the military government and the establishment of a democratic government and their desire for social reforms can never be realised.

Chongryun Denounces Roh's "Inauguration"

The Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun) on Feb. 25 criticized the so-called "peaceful transfer of power" in south Korea, in its statement.

The statement said that the "presidential inauguration" in south Korea is "unpardonable treacherous act" as many south Korean people rejected Roh's "victory" in the December presidential election and denied his regime's "legitimacy".

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